

Thirteenth Sunday of the Year

Welcome Jesus

INTRODUCTION

Everyone likes to feel welcomed and to be treated kindly. Sometimes Jesus and his disciples were treated unkindly by people who were unwilling to welcome them into their homes and their lives.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and read these words:

Live your lives as children of the light. Do not hide in the darkness for there is nothing to fear. Fill your lives with love and goodness, and follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

(Romans 13:12-14)

SORRY

While St. Paul was in prison in Rome, he wrote a letter to some of the early Christians to remind them how important it is to ask for God's forgiveness and to be ready to forgive others.

Make a fresh start and change your heart. Tell the truth and do not let anger spoil your friendship with each other and God. Speak kindly and act with love and goodness. Above all, be ready to forgive others as God forgives you.

(Ephesians 4:22-32)

Now we will spend a few quiet moments speaking to God in our hearts and telling him that we are sorry if we have done wrong.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 6.

GOSPEL (LUKE 9:51-56)

Jesus set out for Jerusalem intending to stop and rest at a Samaritan village on the way. The people there had heard that he was coming and drove Jesus and his followers away. Some of his disciples grew angry when this happened, but Jesus scolded them and quietly led them away to find another village where they would be made to feel welcome.

DISCUSSION

Jesus and his disciples were going to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish Passover together, after which Jesus would be arrested and put to death.

The Samaritans and the Jews had been enemies since Old Testament times. When they heard that a crowd of Jews planned to stay in their village before traveling on to Jerusalem, they became angry and drove them away. They were not ready to welcome Jesus or willing to listen to his message of love and peace.

The disciples grew angry themselves when they saw how Jesus had been treated. But Jesus scolded them for getting angry and wasting their time and energy. Instead, he led them to another village where they might be welcomed. Jesus knew that there was much work to be done, and that they should waste no time on those who would not listen to the Good News they brought.

Jesus wanted to share his love and his message with anyone who made him welcome. He said, "Whatever you do to others you do it to me." When we treat other people with love and kindness and make them feel welcome at home, at school, or wherever we are, then we are doing the same to Jesus.

ACTIVITY

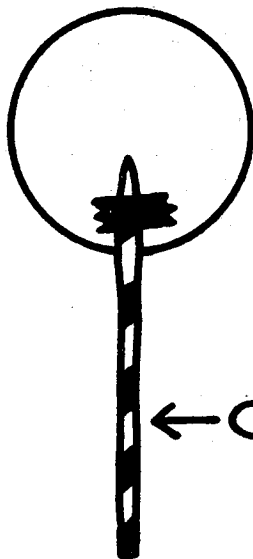
Copy the illustration given onto some colored cardboard. Cut out the circles, and ask the children to color the letters and draw a smiling picture of themselves in the middle. These can then be hung from a mobile or attached to a stick for each child to carry.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, may I see you
in the people around me,
and welcome you with a warm smile
and a loving heart.

Help me to listen to your message
of love and peace:
the Good News which you brought
to share with our world.



← a straw.

